

Iowa Department of Education
RFP #SIS-001
Questions and Responses
07/13/07

Vendor Question	Department Response
Does The Iowa Department of Education intend to release an RFP for a statewide SIS in the near future	At this time there is no plan to release an RFP. The legislation requires us to complete a study and make a recommendation to the Legislature in January 2008.
By responding to this RFP #SIS-001, is the vendor precluded from responding to the full statewide SIS when it is released?	No, any RFP that were to be issued as a result of this study would be much more technical in nature and more inclusive than the study.
Does the DE's current Project EASIER meet the State's requirements for data collection?	Project EASIER meets our current data collection needs but it is reviewed and updated each year so it may change as needs change.
Does the DE expect special education SIS data to be included in the study?	No, this study would just cover those systems being used to collect data for Project EASIER.
Will the report submitted to the DE be the same report that will be submitted to the Iowa General Assembly in January of 2008	The department would reserve the right to add to the report received from the vendor. The study will be the basis for the report.
Section 2.1 states the study "shall examine the systems in use in other states.. Have these states been determined, and if so, what are they.	We have not determined the states to be studied. The vendor will make that determination and contact the states.
Section 2.1 states that the "study shall take under consideration a recommendation on limits on the numbers of software systems approved to connect to Project EAISER (sic)." When and who made this recommendation, and where are documents we can review regarding this recommendation?	The language referenced in this section is from the legislation. This is the result of legislative interest and action of the part of legislators to look at greater efficiency for school districts and the educational system.
The DOE site provides a list of data collections. Will all of these collections be included in the study, or are there others? If so, what are they?	Project EASIER will be the only data collection included in this study.

Section 2.1 states that the "study shall focus on systems that will improve efficiency, accuracy, and security of, and access to, the data by various users." Have the users been defined? If so, what are the user groups (public users, administrators, teachers, etc.).	The study is to focus on the data collected through Project EASIER and the systems being used by school districts for that data collection, so school districts are the only group.
Are both AEAs and LEAs to be surveyed?	Just LEAs will need to be included in the study.
Does it matter to the DE if the survey is online, paper or phone?	No, that will be the choice of the vendor.
If online are there concerns regarding the host site being located outside the IA DE?	No, we would expect the vendor to host that.
Does the IA DE maintain a mailing list, (including emails) of staff by content areas in the districts? Specifically, could the DE generate a list of district IT staff emails, special ed director emails, district financial officers, etc.that can be used as survey respondents?	We maintain email lists for all district superintendents. We can request that they forward it to the selected staff in each district.
The RFP calls for an examination of "systems in other states" - is that referring to other State Department of Education "systems" or other Student Management "systems" used by local districts?	It would refer to other state departments of education and how they collect their basic education data.
The RFP calls for "current systems in use within DE's project EASIER" - wouldn't the IA DE be aware of these "current systems" it uses? If not, could you clarify what the RFP is requesting.	The study needs to look at the number of student information systems currently in use by Iowa districts and whether it would increase the efficiency of the system by having fewer systems available for districts to choose from for their system.
The RFP calls for "emerging student information systems under development". Is it safe to assume that this is referring to school districts in IA?	No, the study needs to look at other systems currently in development and at new vendors that could provide a statewide student information system.